

TRANSLATION**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY****PCT****INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 33968	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/011234	International filing date (day/month/year) 05.08.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 05.09.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G03F3/023, 1/16		
Applicant KITAZAWA, Shuuji		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>10</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u>4</u> sheets, as follows: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/011234

Box No. I

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):*
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-26 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 1-2, 4, 7-8, 10-25, 27-28, 30 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* 3, 5-6, 9, 26, 29 _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/22-22/22 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/011234

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	4-9, 11, 18, 22-24, 29	YES
	Claims	1-3, 10, 12-17, 19-21, 25-28, 30	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-30	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-30	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
<p>Document 1: JP 11-161418 A (Fujitsu Takamizawa Component Kabushiki Kaisha), 18 June 1999, paragraphs [0026] to [0052] and fig. 1 to 4</p> <p>Claims 1, 2, 10 and 11</p> <p>The inventions set forth in claims 1, 2 and 10 lack novelty in the light of document 1 cited in the international search report.</p> <p>In addition, the invention set forth in claim 11 does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 cited in the international search report.</p> <p>Document 1 discloses a coordinate input device wherein the "frame (9)" is grasped in one hand and the "dome-shaped operating part (83)" is operated by means of a thumb or the like.</p> <p>Meanwhile, conventional joysticks wherein the movement direction of the stick is regulated and the stick is subjected to a force that returns the stick to its original position in the circumferential direction are well known, and thus it would have been obvious for a person skilled in the art to employ such a configuration.</p>			

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/011234

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

Document 2: JP 06-268724 A (Hitachi Ltd.), 22 September
1994, paragraphs [0008] to [0009] and fig. 1
(Family: none)

Claims 3 and 12

The inventions set forth in claims 3 and 12 lack novelty in the light of document 2, which is newly cited in the present international preliminary report on patentability.

Document 2 discloses a configuration wherein the "transmitter side case member (1)" and the "receiver side case member (2)" are joined by means of a "hinge part (10)" in a manner such that the case members can be opened and closed, and a plurality of "function buttons (6)" are provided in the vicinity of the hinge part of the receiver side case member. Therein, given the dimensions of a conventional portable telephone, it is apparent that the function buttons are provided at a site where said buttons could be operated by the fingertips of one hand when the aforementioned transmitter side case member is being grasped; furthermore, it is also apparent that if the function buttons are operated without removing the fingertips therefrom, then it is possible to displace the function buttons into a plurality of states, including at least a state in which a function button is pressed down and a state in which a function button is not pressed down.

Document 3: JP 2003-174495 A (NEC Corp.), 20 June 2003,
paragraphs [0035] to [0081], and fig. 1 and

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/011234

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
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Claims 4 and 5

The inventions set forth in claims 4 and 5 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 2, which is newly cited in the present international preliminary report on patentability, and document 3, which is cited in the international search report.

Document 3 (paragraph [0039]) discloses the feature of configuring so that the "upper unit (200)" can revolve and rotate freely relative to the "lower unit (100)" around the "biaxial hinge (300)." Therein, the aforementioned lower unit and the aforementioned upper unit that has been equipped with a "secondary operation key (207)" can be considered to correspond to the "grip part" and the "main body," respectively, in the invention that is set forth in claim 3. In addition, the aforementioned biaxial hinge corresponds to the "base part" that is set forth in claim 4.

Furthermore, it would have been easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of disposing the secondary operation key that is disclosed in document 3 in the vicinity of the aforementioned biaxial hinge, like the function buttons that are disclosed in document 2.

Document 4: JP 2002-335316 A (NEC Access Technica Kabushiki Kaisha), 22 November 2002, entire text, all drawings

Claims 6 to 9

The inventions set forth in claims 6 to 9 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 2, which is newly cited in the present international preliminary report on patentability, and documents 3 to

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/011234

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

4, which are cited in the international search report.

Document 4 discloses a feature wherein the relative rotation of the "transmitter unit (3)" and the "receiver unit (4)" is locked in either a folded state or an open state by means of a locking mechanism that can be released by pressing a button.

In addition, the aforementioned transmitter unit and the aforementioned receiver unit both rotate relative to a "hinge (2)," and thus the rotation of the aforementioned transmitter unit relative to the aforementioned hinge and the rotation of the aforementioned receiver unit relative to the aforementioned hinge can be considered to be associated with one another.

Furthermore, it would have been easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of providing a rotation associating mechanism and a locking mechanism to the "biaxial hinge" that is disclosed in document 3 in the light of the rotation associating mechanism and the locking mechanism that are disclosed in document 4.

Document 5: JP 2003-216308 A (Fujitsu Ltd.), 31 July 2003, entire text, all drawings

Claims 13 to 25

The inventions set forth in claims 13 to 17, 19 to 21 and 25 lack novelty in the light of document 5 cited in the international search report.

In addition, the inventions set forth in claims 18 and 22 to 24 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 5 cited in the international search report.

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Document 5 (paragraph [0021]) discloses a feature wherein the input mode is switched by means of "mode switching keys," and further indicates that the keys for switching the input mode "may be configured so as to comprise a slide switch key, a dial switch key, a lever switch key, and/or a confirmation key which can be operated in a prescribed direction and in the opposite direction, whereby it is possible to select an arbitrary input mode or an arbitrary character by pushing down the confirmation key when an input mode or a character has been selected by changing the direction for selecting the input mode or the character between the given direction or the opposite direction."

In addition, a person skilled in the art could simply arbitrarily decide not to employ a portion of the information code, like in the correspondence table for associating the "input keys (2)" and the character groups that is disclosed in document 5 (paragraph [0043]), which presents an example wherein only the Japanese characters "'wa,' '(w)o' and 'n'" are assigned to the five keys.

Furthermore, it would have been easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of configuring so that it is possible to "substitute the information code externally," so that the "arrangement of the information code groups and the direction of the force that must be applied by the fingertips in order to operate the operation part are associated and displayed," so that the "selected information code group is highlighted," and so that each type of information that is associated with inputting the code is "assembled and displayed."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/011234

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
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Document 6: JP 2001-272609 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.),
05 October 2001, paragraphs [0006] to [0052]
and fig. 4 to 9

Claims 26 and 28

The inventions set forth in claims 26 and 28 lack novelty in the light of document 6 cited in the international search report.

Document 6 discloses a feature wherein the "curved lever (28)," which is disposed on the front surface of the "case member (6a)," is provided at the site where it can most easily be operated by means of a thumb while the "slide switch (44)," which is disposed on the rear surface side of the case member, is provided at the site where it can most easily be operated by means of an index finger, and also discloses a feature wherein the "joystick (45)" outputs an analog signal according to the inclination angle of the aforementioned curved lever.

Document 7: JP 2003-050970 A (Ricoh Co., Ltd.), 21
February 2003, entire text, all drawings

Claims 27 and 30

The inventions set forth in claims 27 and 30 lack novelty in the light of document 7 cited in the international search report.

Document 7 discloses an information input device with an integrated "pen part (11)," an integrated "image acquisition part (12)," an integrated "pen color changing button (13)" and the like.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/011234

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
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Document 8: JP 3082846 U (Nippon Name Plate Kogyo
Kabushiki Kaisha), 10 October 2001, entire
text, all drawings

Claim 29

The invention set forth in claim 29 does not
involve an inventive step in the light of document 2,
which is newly cited in the present international
preliminary report on patentability, and document 8,
which is cited in the international search report.

Document 8 discloses a portable telephone wherein
a "display window (20)" that has a "third lens part (25)"
is disposed at a location that corresponds to the
"character/number area (15)" of the "liquid crystal
display panel (10)."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/011234

Box No. VI

Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

Application No. Patent No.	Publication date (day/month/year)	Filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (valid claim) (day/month/year)
JP 2004-080184 A	11.03.2004	13.08.2002	
{E, X}			

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

Kind of non-written disclosure	Date of non-written disclosure (day/month/year)	Date of written disclosure referring to non-written disclosure (day/month/year)
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